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## "WHO SAYS A CHICKEN FEATHER CAN'T FLY UP TO HEAVEN?"

Dr. Ted Johnson, who was a missionary in China from 1935 to 1941, recently revisited China with his wife. On his way back to Canada, where he is Program and Planning Secretary for the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Dr. Johnson discussed his impressions and experiences with a group of 50 people at an informal meeting in Tokyo sponsored by the NCCJ. And this is what Dr. Johnson had to say:

During their 22 days in China the Johnsons visited Canton, Shanghai, Nanking, Peking, Shangyang, etc. Early in the visit, Johnson developed a case of acute appendicitis. The Peking Hospital where he was treated decided to treat his condition with antibiotics. His experiences on the inside of the hospital reinforced his overall impression of the friendliness of China.

Johnson viewed China against his impressions of China thirty years ago and against modern Western cities society and structures. He felt Mao "has a rationale which speaks to the problems men are facing everywhere."

Whereas thirty years ago China had been disorganized, poverty wide spread, illiteracy, human suffering and prostitution rampant, and the churches, hospitals, universities and agricultural experiments barely touching the fringes of China's needs, he now found everyone--children in schools, workers in factories, people in communes--all in good health, happy and with no real want. Housing is simple, life drab from a Western point of view but consistent with Mao's philosophy of dealing with essentials before turning to luxuries. China is a "going concern" with train and bus transportation running well and 2 million bicycles and few cars in Peking. People have accepted the self-discipline imposed by Mao's philosophy.

Johnson cited five trends and dynamics of Chinese life today: 1) the determination to be self-reliant at every point; 2) the development of leadership qualities among people at every level, from kindergarten children to factory workers; 3) the importance of service to one's fellowmen as a motivation; 4) recognition of and equal representation for minority groups (Korean, South Tibetan, Wei and others not of the Han people who are becoming a definite part of the main stream of life in China); 5) a sense of friendship with all of the world...the visits of sumo wrestlers from Japan, the philharmonic orchestras from London and Vienna, etc.

Johnson voiced his greatest apprehension over the Mao cult which he feels "China will have to deal with at some point in her development."

"There is the conviction and faith in China that anything is possible. In the *Selected Readings of Mao*, which is given to all visitors, Mao says, 'Who says a chicken feather can't fly up to heaven?' Johnson felt that on his visit he saw "chicken feathers flying up to heaven." Things are happening that [he does not see] happening in other countries in spite of the expenditure of tremendous amounts of development aid.

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Much of the Christian teaching is done in the family setting of Christian homes. No Bibles are being printed. No Bibles are for sale. Bibles can be sent in but probably not in quantity."

Johnson firmly believes the Christian mission is one of the important forces that has helped the contemporary development of China. As an example he cited Dr. Norman Bethune, a Canadian doctor who is honored today as one of China's great figures. Bethune was the son of a very able Presbyterian minister in Canada who refused high-salaried churches in preference for churches where the need was the greatest. Although the son did not follow in his father's footsteps in the church, had no part in the organized church and became a communist, he resembled his father in refusing to take jobs in the big Peking hospitals but working among instead the oppressed and poverty-stricken people of the slums, people in desperate need of a physician.

## SODEPAX STUDIES CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

A group of Protestant and Catholic scholars in Japan are toiling, to prepare a Code of Business Behaviour while Overseas. The formation of such a code is one of four main areas of concern expressed in three successive meetings of persons representing various organizations whose major concern is to establish good relationships with other Asian nations. The meetings were sponsored by the Japan SODEPAX Committee (a joint Protestant-Catholic organization for the concern of Society, Development and Peace, Co-chairmen-Prof. Yoshiaki Iisaka and Prof. Kinhide Mushakoji). Other areas of concern include: the need for an effective documentation center, establishment of solidarity among peoples of differing nations, and education for peace and development. The committee has assigned four working groups to dig into each of these areas.

At the April 19 committee meeting, Prof. Kikuo Yamaoka, who heads the working group on the Code of Behaviour, made an interim report. After reviewing all available materials which have been publicized by various organizations (The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, The Pacific Basin Economic Council, International Chamber of Commerce, UNCTAD, OECD, UNIDO, Japan Foreign Trade Council, Ministry of International Trade and Industry), the group found five common weaknesses in all of these statements. 1) It is taken for granted that the introduction of new industries to developing nations is advantageous to all nations. 2) International investing activities are considered only in terms of investment of capital, without taking into account their relationships with local activities. 3) With the exception of the statements by UNCTAD, all take it for granted that (the costs are always to be charged to) the receiving nations. 4) They don't take into consideration the interests of the unions. 5) In their plans there is a danger of local investors being pushed aside from the main stream of economic activities.

The SODEPAX JAPAN Committee plans to complete their study shortly and send the results to the related groups in Asian countries as a draft material to be discussed by those people.

Says Yamaoka, "Here is what a Christian group like us can and should contribute. But it is most important that we seek the advice of the people of other Asian countries before we do anything. Very few, if any statements so far, have involved our Asian neighbors in the course of study and preparation."

## VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PRIEST TO TOUR JAPAN

\* JCAN April 27

A representative of *Movement des catholiques au service de la nation*, one of the fifteen Vietnamese organizations in Paris that comprise the "third power", will arrive in Japan on May 2 for a 10-day lecture tour throughout the country. Archbishop Peter Shirayanagi of the Tokyo Archdiocese and Rev. Kan'ichi Nishimura, a Kyodan minister who is a member of the House of Councilors of the National Diet, heads the voluntary Christian group which issued the invitation to Father Nguen Dinh Thi.

Born in 1934 in central Vietnam, Fr. Thi used to travel freely between Paris and Vietnam during 1961-68 until he was expelled from his mother country. He holds a refugee passport issued by the French government. In 1966 he earned a PhD degree from Sorbonne University, majoring in the field of ethnology. He was one of the main figures at the emergency International Conference on Vietnam held in Rome last February 22-24. Mr. Nishimura and other Japanese participants were most impressed by his presentation on the present situation of political prisoners in South Vietnam. It was the desire of both these Japanese and Fr. Thi himself that in the near future he would appeal as a Christian to the Japanese people. His itinerary is as follows: Nagoya (May 2), Tokyo (May 5, 2-4 p.m. Joshidakuin), Sendai (May 6), Okinawa (May 7), Fukoka (May 8), Hiroshima (May 9), Kobe (May 10), Kyoto (May 11) and leaves on May 12. Contact the office of NCC Division of Service for further information (Tel. 03-202-0486).

## "CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG" - PINKY - AND KINJO STUDENTS

Kinjo Gakuin double Handbell Choir will appear on the NHK TV program "Uta wa Tomodachi" on Sat., May 5, from 6:05 to 6:45 p.m. The 17 10th graders will have the fun of performing as guest artists with a Kinjo Gakuin alumna, Pinky-- popular singer and TV star, who is the regular hostess on the show.

The bellringers will ring a special arrangement of the Japanese song, "Makiba no Asa" made by Eisai Ikemiya, "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" and other numbers. Director of the choir is Merle I. Kelly, Kinjo Gakuin instructor of instrumental music and a missionary of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

The handbell choirs have appeared on TV and radio, participated in church worship services and given special concerts. Their repertoire includes Saints-Saen, Schubert, Beethoven, and Bach and contemporary music written or arranged for handbells.

## "THE BETHESDA HOME SONG"

The Bethesda Home in Chiba will appear on TV on Sat., May 5, at 10:40 p.m. over Channel 3, NHK Educational TV.

Throwing the spotlight on Bethesda these days is the "Bethesda Home Song" which recently won first prize in a song-writing competition sponsored by NHK. A spastic woman resident in the Home wrote a poem about the Home, two other residents set it to music and together they submitted it in the contest. The song has been sung twice by the NHK radio choir on Sunday evening, Home residents providing an excited, proud listening audience. Producers, who inquired into the background of the song, discovered Bethesda Home itself and decided to introduce it on TV, spending two days there shooting the film.

Bethesda Home stems from the visit to Japan of Helen Keller in 1947, when Miss Shigeyo Hasegawa founded the Society of Friends of Love. In 1953 the Home was established. It is open to severely handicapped women and provides accommodations, protection and occupational training appropriate to the degree of handicap. Associated with the Home are two German deaconesses, Ursula van Lingen and Irmgard Hartwig.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

At the Central Committee meeting of the NCCJ on April 16, Rev. George Hanabusa, Acting General Secretary of the Nihon Kirisuto Kyodan, was elected Secretary, completing the new slate of officers. The chairmen of the Board of Directors for the Education, Service and Mission Divisions and the Audio-Visual Activities Commission are as follows: Education - Mr. Koichi Oshima; Service - Rev. Yamada Jyo; Mission - Dr. In Ha Lee; Avaco - Rev. Atsumi Tasaka.

"Evangelism is the participation in the gracious event of God; it is the total involvement of ourselves in God who revealed himself completely. The audio-visual approach can help us to recapture this event."

"God himself, through the personal media of Jesus (the Word of Life), entered into the world of man. It is here alone that there is communication between God and man. The role of Audio-Visual evangelism is important in the development of the theology of the Incarnation of the Word of God."

Both of these quotes, the former by Prof. Junro Ishida (Tokyo Lutheran Seminary) and the latter by Dr. In Ha Lee (Korean Christian Church in Japan), were taken from their key-note addresses at the NCCJ-AVACO Consultation held at the AVACO Mass Communication Center on April 10, 1973.

The forty participants at the consultation included the newly elected directors for the next three year period (1973-75), various committee members, lecturers related to AVACO's summer workshop sessions, members of the NCCJ Central Committee, NCCJ Staff members and AVACO staff. The purpose of the consultation was to take a new look at AVACO by reviewing the activities of AVACO to date, and listening to future expectations of AVACO.

It is impossible to give the full report of the consultation (herein). First is a brief summary of the way in which the key-note speakers stressed the role of audio-visual evangelism.

*Lee:* (1) With the development of mass media everything is squeezed into one pattern, the level of apathy increases and the distinction between illusion and reality becomes difficult. In such an age as this Christians must take the lead in public opinion making and in demonstrating what the Bible has to say about human relationships in a creative sense. (2) Christians must take the role of correcting the various errors in the field of Mass Communications as their own social action movement.

*Ishida:* (1) Evangelism is the expression of the gracious event disclosed in Christ and is Encounter with Him. It is here that the audio visual approach is important. (2) Audio-Visual Evangelism is also extremely important in that it stimulates ecumenical cooperation.

In the afternoon there was a frank exchange concerning AVACO activities. In the evening session, Kimura Tomomi (Kyodan), Miyauchi Sunzo (Japan Bible Society), Shimizu Jiro (Association of Christian Schools), Nakajima Masaaki (NCCJ General Secretary), Stan Manierre (NCCJ Assoc. General Secretary) and Pentti Karikoski (Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church) expressed briefly their expectations of AVACO.

*Kimura:* I hope you will not think it a shame to offer talented personnel and good techniques in participating in the secular activities such as the Rental Studios and Bridal Hall; I hope you will push on ahead with these activities and be a stimulation to the churches.

*Miyauchi:* I hope that we can cooperate with AVACO in taking every opportunity to promote the increased reading of the Bible, the Word of Life.

*Shimizu:* The present facilities of AVACO have already become too small and limited. I hope it will develop more and more.

*Nakajima:* Discussions have been taking place as to what kind of identity NCCJ ought to have. Bearing this in mind and taking advantage of the nature of a "Commission" (to which autonomous power is entrusted), it may be that the time has come for AVACO to enlarge the scope of service to the churches in their various evangelistic activities through its special gifts which have been assimilated through its years of experience.

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Manierre: The role of AVACO in helping to portray the mission of the church in this day of urbanization is extremely important.\* \* \* \* \*

Repeated efforts, through consultations, the printed word etc., have been made over the past 15 years to help the church understand its role in urban-industrial society. Unfortunately, those who have heard the agonies rising up from the streets and have taken these burdens as theirs in various forms of new functional ministries, are looked upon by much of the established church as "playing their hobbies". It is here where I would like to ask AVACO's cooperation in helping our churches to visualize, through the media, the way in which the gospel is being incarnated in these very ministries.

Karikoski: I would like for AVACO to enlighten the churches on new developments in the field of audio-visual equipment as well as to educate them as to how to use these new innovations such as video-tape, etc., in connection with their activities.

Because AVACO has grown so much and also because Mass Communications is so far advanced, expectations of AVACO are indeed great....

#### ANGLICANS CONSULT ON MRI

by B. K. Takeuchi

On April 12-13, the Anglican Church in Japan (*the Nihon Seikokai*) had a consultation in Tokyo with representatives of the Episcopal Church in U. S. A., the Anglican Church in Canada, the two missionary societies of the Church of England, the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (the S.P.C.K.), and the Anglican Consultative Council which is a co-ordinating body of the Anglican Communion to promote co-operation in mission of the Church between Anglican Churches throughout the world. This consultation was one of a series of experimental meetings to make proposals to the A.C.C. meeting to be held in Dublin, July 1973, for a new pattern for the implementation of the MRI concept. MRI is a basic concept among Anglican churches for co-operation in the mission of the church declared in Toronto in 1963 as Mutual Responsibility and Interdependence in the Body of Christ.

Since 1963, the Anglican Churches have been working hard to realize the MRI concept in actual situations taking up some concrete forms and patterns for its implementation such as companion diocese relationships, the Directory of Projects, establishment of the Anglican Consultative Council and so on. Furthermore, in Jerusalem (1966), at the Lambeth Conference (1968), and in Limru, Kenya (1971), representatives of the whole Anglican provinces and regions studied and evaluated the past experiences and made some improvements in the patterns. Yet the traditional pattern of "giving churches" and "receiving churches" is still a reality and terms such as "haves", "have-nots", "givers" and "receivers" can hardly be withdrawn from the real situation. Especially, the Directory of Projects, one of the patterns, which is a list of projects which need some outside support and was originally intended to be a means through which concerned churches made themselves involved in a certain project in a particular province, has become ineffective because of less and less response to the needs of so-called receiving churches.

The purpose of the April consultations in Tokyo, was to explore the possibility of a new pattern to make the MRI concept more real in the life of churches of the Anglican Communion. An ad hoc committee of the NSKK consisting of representatives to the April consultation was formed. They discussed a proposal made by a similar consultation held in the West Indies in March which suggested that a province would plan a project for mission in its area. Some mission boards would join in its planning process and participate in its realization through consultations to be held at regular intervals instead of the Directory of Projects which was found ineffective.

The NSKK representatives responding to the above proposal, at the April consultation, emphasized the following reactions. They were accepted at the consultation and will be part of the proposal of a new pattern to be presented to the A.C.C. meeting in Dublin: 1) the NSKK believes that the most crucial point is a fundamental change of our consciousness towards the Mission of the Church, for a method or a strategy should have its root in a deep missionary spirit among people throughout the world.

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- A NOTE FOR THE MUSICALLY INCLINED--PIPE ORGAN SERIES - - -

Omori Megumi Church, 19-35 Ikegami 1-chome, Ota-ku, Tokyo

May 13 - 3:00 p.m. June 10 - 3:00 Admission = ¥500

2) we must discard completely the traditional pattern of giving and receiving. A province with an utmost effort to be independent should enlist the support of all the churches in that particular province. 3) the Directory of Projects as a source of information of resources, manpower and needs must be retained as it is now or in a different form which might be more effectively used. 4) dioceses and provinces must be encouraged to have companion relations with others through close personal links. 5) a consultation on a project being planned by a particular province may involve representatives of that province as well as representatives of partner churches who are invited by the local province. But the initiative in planning should be taken by those from the local province, not by those who are invited, although the cost of the consultation may be shared by all involved; 6) reports of consultations should be circulated throughout the Anglican communion and 7) above all, the NSKK along with other provinces, will co-operate with its utmost effort in any proposed consultation which becomes a reality.

Further, the NSKK proposed the establishment of an Anglican Loan Fund for purchasing land and building churches. The NSKK is ready to offer some support to such a Fund, for, if it is realized, it would be a tremendous help to churches in developing countries where there are no immediate financial resources, but where there is some possibility of meeting a need within a certain period of time.

It is regretful that though the NSKK expressed its need for missionaries from other parts of the world, acknowledging that the era of missionary domination is over, there was almost no discussion about missionary problems, philosophy, and strategy. The NSKK hopes this matter will be dealt with in future consultations, for missionaries are particularly important as a media of communication in the world-wide fellowship of the church.

#### COC SPRING MEETING HELD

On April 11-12 the spring meeting of the Council of Cooperation was held attended by some 30 official COC delegates and observers from member bodies (The United Church of Christ in Japan, the COC-related Schools Council, the Christian Social Work League, the Japan-North American Commission on Cooperative Mission (JNAC).) This year a number of concerns came into focus:

---a growing concern for the aged. With 182 retired pastors, and one quarter of the Kyodan's 2,140 pastors over the age of 60, the United Church of Christ places high priority on the pension endowment fund, putting 37% of its budget into pension payments, according to Acting General Secretary George Hanabusa.

---programs of encounter between Christians of different countries and cultures. In a program directed by Armin and Evelyn Kroehler, a group of 21 people from the Tohoku Area - pastors and laymen - will visit churches in the Pacific Northwest of USA and Canada.

A group of seven Korean residents of Japan left on April 23 to visit minority groups and concerned churches in the USA. A major international consultation on minorities is being planned for Japan in 1974.

Four young Americans will participate in summer camps in Japan.

Sponsored by the UPC-USA, with NCCC-USA level participation, a group of social workers will observe private and public social work here this summer.

---ecumenical projects-A project being offered for consideration is the new Institute of Education, a graduate faculty of counseling to be established by Sophia University next year.

---shift of financial load-COC is submitting an asking for ¥442,500,000 to the JNAC boards. On the Japan side, Acting General Secretary Yoichiro Saeki reports contributions of ¥48,224,349 for 1973 by COC related schools, social work agencies and churches to missionary support and work budgets.

---continuing force of missionaries-COC missionaries number 258: 100 in evangelistic-related assignments, 128 in schools, 6 in social work, 14 in special ministries, 7 in administration, and 3 in language school. Schools are asking for 16 educational missionaries and contract teachers, the Kyodan for 4 evangelistic missionaries and the Social Work League for workers with severely handicapped people.

"Young people in other Asian countries were as eager to meet us as we were to meet them," said James E. Atwood, reporting on the trip to Southeast Asia made by a group of 13 Japanese college students from five universities. Tour leaders were John Krummel and Atwood, both missionaries involved in student ministry. The 23-day trip included Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

"We were with people who spoke frankly about the problems of their countries--nationalism, economic exploitation, racial prejudice, personal freedoms--but also encouraged us to see the tourist attractions," said Atwood. "And we were impressed by creative efforts of the church to rebuild lives through redemptive words and rural and social development programs.

"We can honestly say that we have been to Southeast Asia," said Atwood, pointing out that the group avoided luxurious hotels, fancy restaurants and comfortable air condition living, "not only because we did not take that kind of money but because that would not enable us to accomplish our purpose of having meaningful conversations with Southeast Asian students, young people and educational and church leaders." Instead the group stayed in hostels, homes, patronized local markets, visited rural villages, met with students.

"What we learned there will have a lasting effect on the way we think about ourselves, our countries' problems and Japan's international responsibilities as an 'integral part of Asia'." said Atwood.

"We were all troubled by the tremendous Japanese presence in Southeast Asia. For example, our first impression of the ancient city of Bangkok was the huge sign at the exit of the airport: *Welcome to Bangkok-- TOYOTA.* We saw reason to take seriously what we were so often told: that the rest of Asia is afraid that Japan might sacrifice what is good for Asia because of its overwhelming preoccupation on what is good for Japan today. Many people in the countries we visited believe this is actually taking place. They documented their cases by pointing to the great trade imbalances, restrictions on their products in Japanese markets and rising costs of local consumer goods which are traceable to Japanese aid. The attitude that Southeast Asia is only a market and that Japanese people seldom meet the local people on a truly human level troubles us deeply.

"But another--and a refreshing--Japanese presence in Southeast Asia is that of Rev. and Mrs. Kenichiro Mochizuki, who teach at the Thailand Theological Seminary and work as Directors at the Student Christian Center in Chiengmai. The quality of their work and relationships impressed us greatly."

"Our horizons have been broadened. Our consciousness has been raised significantly as to who we are, who our neighbors are, and what the real issues of our world are. We covet for others, particularly students, the opportunity to have a similar experience," says Jim, inviting persons interested in future trips to Southeast Asia to contact him at 3-47 Mure 4-chome, Mitaka Shi, Tokyo.

KCCJ TEAM LEAVES TO VISIT NORTH AMERICA

Seven members chosen by the General Assembly of the Korean Christian Church in Japan left Japan on April 23 to visit North America for a one month period of exposure, learning and training in issues of concern to the minorities such as: *quality education, housing, identity, role of the church, basic human rights and community organization.*

The team members are: Mr. Suk Choon Yu (Director of Ikuno Community Development Center); Rev. Dong Goon Hong (Pastor of Kyoto Church); Rev. Chang Wha Cheh (Pastor of Kokura Church); Rev. Shin Wan Kim (Pastor of Hiroshima Church); Mr. Chung Il Lee\*, Staff member of Ikuno Community Center; Rev. Choong Shik Cheh\*, (Community organizer) and Mrs. In Sook Kwan (President of the Women's Evangelism Association).

\*Chung Il Lee and Choong Shik Cheh will stay for another 2-3 months training and exposure in Community Action Programmes.

NOTE: We regret that in the article on the formation of the Japan-North American Commission on Cooperative Mission, (JCAN Feb. 23 No. 427 p4 (16)) the name of the The United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. was omitted as one of the charter members of JNAC.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE ELDERLY

----- "an old woman was found dead from starvation beside her aged invalid sister who was unable to get help."  
----- "found, a disabled ex-service man, dead with a note left on the wall."  
----- "a shut-in old man and a blind woman died after drinking nothing but water for three days."

Only 40% of people 65 years old and over can support themselves through their own financial resources. 60% depend on the care of their children. The present social welfare pension level for the aged is ¥3,300 per month. Non government political parties aim at a ¥30,000 per month pension.

**POLLUTION**--After 18 years of struggle 36 victims of the milk poisoning perpetrated on the Japanese population by the Morinaga Milk Company were able to take their case to court and they are asking damage compensation of ¥10,000,000 (\$38,460) per victim.

Victims of the environmental mercury poisoning caused by the Showa Chemical Company in Niigata prefecture won negotiations through an independent negotiating group for compensation. At present 346 persons, including 13 deceased, have been designated official victims of this particular case of environmental poisoning by a Japanese corporation.

**NAGOYA GOES PROGRESSIVE**--A progressive mayor of Nagoya has been newly elected. Masao Motoyama, former dean of the Department of Education at the University of Nagoya ran in the election on a joint ticket of the Socialist and Communist parties. Now the six major cities from Tokyo to Osaka in the pacific industrial belt have progressive mayors. The triumph of this election is expected to exert a sizable influence on the coming elections in the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly in July, mayor of Kobe in November and the House of Councillors next year.

**LAND PRICES SOAR**--The Ministry of Construction said that average land prices for housing went up 33.3% in the last year. In a remote village in Iwate Prefecture a local real estate agent bought land valued at ¥30 per tsubo (about 6feet square). Then the agent sold the land to a larger real estate broker for ¥200 per tsubo. The broker sold the land to a tourist company in Tokyo for ¥500. The same land was sold to a large company and then to a larger company until the price went up to ¥2,500 per tsubo. Now the entire land area is owned by the Imperial Hotel and a few other large industries.

The farmers who lose land in this way have to go to the urban communities to look for jobs.

**SPECULATORS CAUTIONED**--the six major trading companies were cautioned against speculating in land, securities, and commodities (wool, worsted yarns, raw silk, cotton yarn and rice.) It is said that the six trading companies spent about ¥600 billion in speculative purchases in the past year and a half.

The House of Representatives Commodity Price Special Committee met with the representatives of the six trading companies. Results: The Government party blamed the problems on an absence of correct company policy. The trading companies blamed the problem on an absence of correct government policy. The opposition parties charged that the government party and the six trading companies must bear the responsibility for the spiralling commodity prices.